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I

KINGSBRIDGE

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

on the

Health of the Area

for the Year 1967

Presented by
The Medical Officer of Health and
Public Health Inspector

J. R. GILL AND SON LTD., KINGSBRIDGE

Kingsbridge Urban District Council

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

JOHN WILDMAN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Lond.)

(Appointed 17th July, 1967).

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(Part-time)

MARY E. BUDDING, M.B., B.Ch., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Local Office : Quay House, Kingsbridge, S. Devon.
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Central Office (M.O.H.): Area No. 5, South West Devon,
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Clerk to the Medical Officer : Miss G. Prowse.
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ENGINEER, SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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Public Health matters are dealt with by the Public Health and Highways Committee and the Planning, Clearance and Redevelopment Committee.

KINGSBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report on the Health of the District for the Year 1967

PREFACE

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I present herewith the Annual Report on the health of the district during 1967, drawn up along the lines of Ministry of Health Circular 1/68 dated January 1968. Included in the Report is the Report of your Public Health Inspector.

Very little change has occurred in the vital statistics since last year.

A small number of cases of measles occurred and an isolated case of paratyphoid fever was reported. The source of infection was not discovered.

Apart from this, the general health of the area was maintained.

I wish to thank members of the Council and Staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

JOHN WILDMAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

September 1968.

SECTION A

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1967

Table 1

Figures for 1966 are shown in brackets

POPULATION:

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Kingsbridge Urban District

	(3,320)	3,320
Natural increase or decrease	−16	(−14)
Migration in or out	+16	(+44)
Total increase or decrease	Nil	(+30)
Population at 1961 Census		3,287

GENERAL STATISTICS:

Area of Kingsbridge Urban District in Acres
1,148

Number of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Books
1,154 (1,093)

Number of Houses per acre	1.005	(0.953)
Number of Persons per acre	2.892	(2.892)
Number of Persons per house	2.877	(3.038)
Dwellings owned by the Council		369

Rateable Value of District at 1st April
£134,446 (£129,256)

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate
£545 (£525)

Table 2

Figures for 1966 are shown in brackets

BIRTHS:

Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population 11.9 (11.63)
Area Comparability Factor for Births 1.17 (1.17)

Number of Live Births

	Males	Females	Total
Total	16	18	34
Legitimate	16	18	34
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Number of Still Births	2	0	2

DEATHS:

Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population 13.4 (12.60)
Area Comparability Factor for Deaths ... 0.89 (0.89)

Number of Deaths

	Males	Females	Total
All Ages—Total	34	16	50
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	1	0	1
Number under 4 weeks of age	0	0	0
Number under 1 week of age	0	0	0

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births 29.4 (0.00)

Comparisons with Rates for England and Wales

Birth Rate 17.2 (17.7) **Death Rate** 11.2 (11.7)

Infantile Mortality Rate 18.3 (19.0)
(Infants under 1 year of age)

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: Cases notified during 1967

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1967

Line No.		M.	F.	Total
	ALL CAUSES	34	16	50
1	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	0	0	0
2	Tuberculosis, Other	0	0	0
3	Syphilitic Disease	0	0	0
4	Diphtheria	0	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	0	0	0
6	Meningococcal Infections	0	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8	Measles	0	0	0
9	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ...	0	0	0
10	Malignant Neoplasms, Stomach	0	1	1
11	Malignant Neoplasms, Lungs, Bronchus	4	1	5
12	Malignant Neoplasms, Breast	0	1	1
13	Malignant Neoplasms, Uterus	—	0	0
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	3	5	8
15	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	0	0	0
16	Diabetes	0	0	0
17	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	6	1	7
18	Coronary Disease, Angina	6	4	10
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	0	0	0
20	Other Heart Diseases	5	1	6
21	Other Circulatory Disease	1	1	2
22	Influenza	0	0	0
23	Pneumonia	2	0	2
24	Bronchitis	3	0	3
25	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	0	1
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	1	0	1
27	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	0	1	1
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	0	0	0
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate	0	—	0
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	—	0	0
31	Congenital Malformations	0	0	0
32	Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	2	0	2
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents	0	0	0
34	All other Accidents	0	0	0
35	Suicide	0	0	0
36	Homicide and Operations of War ...	0	0	0

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Table 1

Disease	Total	Age group in years: Under 1	1-	5-	15-	25-	Over 65
Measles	32	0	15	16	0	1	0
Paratyphoid Fever	1	0	0	0	0	1	0

Table 2

Disease	Total	Incidence by Quarters: 1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Measles	32	10	21	0	1
Paratyphoid Fever	1	0	0	1	0

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 and 1951

No action was necessary under the National Assistance Acts of 1948 and 1951 for the removal of persons in need of care and attention and no persons were buried in accordance with Section 50 of the 1948 Act.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Section A

1. Hospitals.

A General Practitioner Hospital with 13 beds is situated at Kingsbridge. Other hospitals which serve the district are at Plymouth and Totnes.

2. County Council Health Services.

Under the National Health Services Act, 1946, the Devon County Council provides the following services :—

Domiciliary midwives, home nurses, health visitors, supervisory care of expectant and nursing mothers and children under five, ambulance services, vaccination and immunisation procedures, home-help services and the after-care of such persons.

Full details can be obtained from the County Medical Officer at Exeter.

3. Mental Health.

Arrangements for treatment under the Mental Health Act, 1959, can be made either by the patient's own doctor or by the Psychiatric Social Worker, Mr. R. V. Townsend, Fore Street Clinic, Kingsbridge, Telephone 2178.

4. Laboratory Service.

Bacteriological examinations of pathological specimens and samples of milk, water and ice-cream are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at Plymouth. The chemical analysis of water is undertaken by public analysts at Exeter.

5. Medical and Dental Services.

There are four general medical practitioners and three dentists in the town.

6. Mass Miniature Radiography.

A Mass X-Ray Unit visits the town regularly once a fortnight and members of the public are encouraged to attend for a chest X-Ray.

Section B.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Water Supply.

The water supply to the area remained highly satisfactory. Work was started on the provisions of a reservoir at Centry which should have the effect of reducing the sometimes very high pressure and also providing more storage capacity.

I am advised that this should be in operation by the Spring of 1969.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Additional sewers were brought into use during 1967 to serve the Council's Redford Estate and some small additions were made at Manor Park and Waterside Park.

The work of preparing all the plans and documents to build a new sewage disposal works for the town went on as fast as possible.

The site of the new works received outline planning approval, and progress has been made toward the design of the necessary pumping station, new trunk sewers, and other works, and in discussions with the land owner, the River Authority and the Rural District Council, in whose area the works will be situated.

Housing.

The Council's eleventh scheme, which had started after many troubles in 1966, was carried on and completed very satisfactorily in November 1967.

Concurrently the progress of dealing with substandard houses was in progress and, as a result 26 houses were considered by the Council. Of these, 11 became the subject of demolition orders. In the case of the remaining 15 undertakings either to reconstruct and repair, or not to re-use for human habitation, were accepted.

With these houses being dealt with, all the properties shown on the report to circular 55/54, together with some additions since, have been considered and disposed of, and the Council's clearance programme completed.

FOOD

The situation regarding the supply, control, and sampling of food remains as in previous years.

The numbers of types of food premises in the area are as follows : Greengrocer 5 ; Grocer 13 ; Butcher 5 ; Restaurants 5 ; Wet Fish Shops 2 ; Fried Fish Shops 2 ; Bakers 5 (only 2 actually bake).

In addition to the above, one person maintains premises for the reception, cleaning and preparation for sale of wet fish and thereafter sells from a properly constructed vehicle.

Happily, it was not necessary during the year to institute any proceedings against any trader for offences in connection with food or hygiene.

The practice has grown up in the past few years of the large multiple store firms refusing to accept lists of goods damaged or unsaleable or unfit, unless their store manager supports it with a condemnation certificate from the local authority. This has resulted in a great number of cans of goods of all descriptions being condemned and a larger number submitted for examination, even, on occasions, cans of prepared animal food, bird food and the like.

It is felt that this serves little public health purpose and is principally a book-balancing operation by the firms concerned. An attempt is being made to discourage the practice, particularly the keeping of large numbers of cans to obviate many visits, but at the same time it is necessary to encourage managers to seek advice immediately in any case of doubt.

The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1966, is as follows :—

Manufacture of Ice Cream	1
Storage of Ice Cream for sale	27
Preparation or manufacture of Sausages, etc	7
Number of Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1954	3

The number of inspections of food premises in the year was 42. This number does not include re-visits where found necessary. The general standard of food premises in the town remains good.

The Method of Disposal of Condemned Food: In the rare cases where large amounts are required to be disposed of, this is done through a recognised firm specialising in the preparation of fertilisers, etc. In other cases, goods are removed by the refuse collection gang and buried at the disposal site.

APPENDIX

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part:

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
number killed (if known)	279	—	7	985	—	—
Number inspected	279	—	7	985	—	—
All disease except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	—		1	1		
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	76			47		
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease, etc.	27.24%			4.08%		
Tuberculosis only :			Nil			
Cysticercosis			Nil			

It will be seen by comparison with previous years that the level of condemnation varies but little. This might well be taken to indicate a high quality of carcase presented for examination; it might equally well be regarded as indicating little progress in the fight against liver fluke infestation.

NUISANCES, etc.

Number of complaints received:

(a) alleging nuisances	4
(b) Alleging house defects	211
(c) other complaints	7
Nuisances proved	1
Minor housing repairs dealt with	185
Other complaints remedied	5
Informal letters sent	2
Statutory Notices	0
Total number of inspections in connection with erection of new houses and conversions	89
Total number of inspections in connection with Public Health	131

SECTION C

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises	No. in Register	Inspect'ns	Number of Written Notices	Occup'rs Prosec'd
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	47	4	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out - workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	52	7	—	—

2. Cases in which Defects were found : Nil.

Part VIII of the Act

OUTWORK

There are no outworkers.